(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Permanent Lok Adalat for Public Utility Services are being set up in the State of Andhra Pradesh. The State Government has agreed to set up Permanent Lok Adalats for Public Utility Services in all the districts in phased manner. In the 1st phase Permanent Lok Adalats have been established in six districts namely, Hyderabad, Chittor, Karimnagar, Kadapa, Guntur and Visakhapatnam. They are functioning under the chairmanship of District Judges and two members from the respective services as provided under the Act.

The State Government has agreed to set up Permanent Lok Adalats in nine Districts in 2nd phase and it is under progress as the Government Orders as to the required formalities are awaited.

(c) In view of the financial burden on the exchequer, the Permanent Lok Adalats are being established in phased manner in all States including the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(d) and (e) The National Legal Services Authority or the State Legal Services Authority, as the case may be, may establish Permanent Lok Adalats at such places and in such numbers as may be expedient to enable the Lok Adalats to exercise its jurisdiction in respect of one or more public utility services as necessary from time to time. The permanent Lok Adalats would have jurisdiction regarding public utility services such as transport, (air, road, water), telegraph or telephone, power, water, sanitation, hospitals and insurance.

Corruption in judiciary

232. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Justice of India has refuted the charges of corruption in judiciary;

(b) whether the Chief Justice of India has pointed out that immediate action is being taken even if one or two cases come before the Court;

(c) if so, the total cases of corruption charges that have been so far considered by the Chief Justice of India;

(d) the number of cases in which the verdict has been given;

(e) the number of cases that are still pending; and

(f) what steps Government proposes to take to check the corruption in judiciary?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (e) The Supreme Court of India has been consulted and they have informed as below:

(i) The Chief Justice of India has not said that there is no corruption at all in judiciary;

(ii) Three cases of corruption have so far been considered by the present Chief Justice of India.

(iii) Of the three cases, two cases are pending for enquiry and the third case has been referred to the Government.

(f) Government is taking steps to set up a National Judicial Council to deal with complaints against Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts.

Grant of mining leases

233. SHRI JAI PARKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of steel companies have entered into MoUs with State Governments for mineral explorations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of companies which have been granted mining leases; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure security of raw material supplies like iron-ore, to the newly established steel companies, to start production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Details on Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) signed by steel companies with State Governments for mineral exploration are not centrally maintained. However, as per the information available in the Ministry of Mines, the State Governments of Orissa, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh have signed MoUs with steel companies to set up steel plants in the respective States and such companies have applied to the respective State Government for grant of mineral concessions.

(c) The details of prior approval conveyed by Ministry of Mines to the State Governments in the last ten years for grant of mining leases are available on the website of Ministry of Mines i.e. www.mines.nic.in.

(d) The Government has enunciated a National Mineral Policy which encourages user industry to develop long term linkages with the mineral producing units, including equity participation in mining companies.

Lease of forest land for mining

234. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has leased the forest land for mining activities in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the total areas of forest land so leased out for mining, alongwith the terms and conditions, State-wise;

(c) whether mining agencies are following the terms and conditions satisfactorily; and